

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A sanitizing apparatus, comprising:

a body for accepting at least one item to be sanitized, the body containing at least one germicidal lamp;

a removable cap, removably attached to the body, the removable cap provided with at least one orifice to accepting the item to be sanitized, the removable cap having at least one extended member for extending into the body of the sanitizing apparatus; and

a cutoff switch ~~provided within in~~ the body of the sanitizing apparatus, coupled to at least one of the at least one extended member of the removable cap, such that when the removable cap is removed, the at least one germicidal lamp is extinguished,

wherein the cutoff switch is located within the body of the sanitizing apparatus such that the cutoff switch cannot be activated by a user when the removable cap is removed.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a safety rod, slidably mounted within the body of the apparatus, the safety rod coupling the cutoff switch with at least one of the at least one extended member of the removable cap,

wherein the body contains an orifice for accepting the safety rod so as to prevent a user from inserting a finger into the orifice to activate the cutoff switch.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a removable drip cup having a bottom portion for receiving and retaining fluids from a toothbrush, removably mounted within the body of the apparatus beneath the cap, such that when the cap is removed from the body of the apparatus, the removable drip cup may be removed for cleaning.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the removable drip cup surrounds at least a portion of the item to be sanitized and reflects at least a portion of light emitted from the germicidal lamp onto the item to be sanitized.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a removable peg, slidably removable from the removable drip cup, the removable peg providing means to adjust the height of the item to be sanitized inserted into the apparatus.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a control circuit, coupled to the germicidal lamp, for controlling actuation of the germicidal lamp such that, once activated, the germicidal lamp is activated for a first predetermined time period, and then shut off for a second predetermined time period.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the control circuit further activates the germicidal lamp for the first predetermined time period after the second predetermined time period has lapsed.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A sanitizing apparatus, comprising:

a body for accepting at least one item to be sanitized, the body containing at least one germicidal lamp;

a removable cap, removably attached to the body, the removable cap provided with at least one orifice to accepting the item to be sanitized, ~~the removable cap having at least one extended member for extending into the body of the sanitizing apparatus;~~

~~_____ a removable drip cup having a bottom portion for receiving and retaining fluids from a toothbrush, removably mounted within the body of the apparatus beneath the cap, such that when the cap is removed from the body of the apparatus, the removable drip cup may be removed for cleaning; and~~

~~_____ a removable peg, slidably removable from the removable drip cup, the removable peg providing means to adjust the height of the item to be sanitized inserted into the apparatus~~

~~a control circuit, coupled to the germicidal lamp, for controlling actuation of the germicidal lamp such that, once activated, the germicidal lamp is activated for a first predetermined time period, and then shut off for a second predetermined time period.~~

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

_____ a control circuit, coupled to the germicidal lamp, for controlling actuation of the germicidal lamp such that, once activated, the germicidal lamp is activated for a first predetermined time period, and then shut off for a second predetermined time period;

_____ wherein the control circuit further activates the germicidal lamp for the first predetermined time period after the second predetermined time period has lapsed.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sanitizing apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

_____ the removable cap having at least one extended member for extending into the body of the sanitizing apparatus;

a cutoff switch provided within in the body of the sanitizing apparatus, coupled to at least one of the at least one extended member of the removable cap, such that when the removable cap is removed, the at least one germicidal lamp is extinguished, wherein the cutoff switch is located within the body of the sanitizing apparatus such that the cutoff switch cannot be activated by a user when the removable cap is removed; and

a safety rod, slidably mounted within the body of the apparatus, the safety rod coupling the cutoff switch with at least one of the at least one extended member of the removable cap, wherein the body contains an orifice for accepting the safety rod so as to prevent a user from inserting a finger into the orifice to activate the cutoff switch.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a removable drip cup having a bottom portion for receiving and retaining fluids from a toothbrush, removably mounted within the body of the apparatus beneath the cap, such that when the cap is removed from the body of the apparatus, the removable drip cup may be removed for cleaning.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the removable drip cup surrounds at least a portion of the item to be sanitized and reflects at least a portion of light emitted from the germicidal lamp onto the item to be sanitized.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising ~~a removable peg, slidably removable from the removable drip cup, the removable peg providing means to adjust the height of the item to be sanitized inserted into the apparatus~~ a control circuit, coupled to the germicidal lamp, for controlling actuation of the germicidal lamp such that, once activated, the germicidal lamp is activated for a first predetermined time period, and then shut off for a second predetermined time period.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A sanitizing apparatus, comprising:

a body for accepting at least one item to be sanitized, the body containing at least one germicidal lamp;

a removable cap, removably attached to the body, the removable cap provided with at least one orifice to accepting the item to be sanitized, the removable cap having at least one extended member for extending into the body of the sanitizing apparatus; and

a removable drip cup having a bottom portion for receiving and retaining fluids from a toothbrush, removably mounted within the body of the apparatus beneath the cap, such that when the cap is removed from the body of the apparatus, the removable drip cup may be removed for cleaning.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the removable drip cup surrounds at least a portion of the item to be sanitized and reflects at least a portion of light emitted from the germicidal lamp onto the item to be sanitized.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a removable peg, slidably removable from the removable drip cup, the removable peg providing means to adjust the height of the item to be sanitized inserted into the apparatus.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising:

a control circuit, coupled to the germicidal lamp, for controlling actuation of the germicidal lamp such that, once activated, the germicidal lamp is activated for a first predetermined time period, and then shut off for a second predetermined time period.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the control circuit further activates the germicidal lamp for the first predetermined time period after the second predetermined time period has lapsed.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sanitizing apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

a cutoff switch ~~provided within~~ in the body of the sanitizing apparatus, coupled to at least one of the at least one extended member of the removable cap, such that when the removable cap is removed, the at least one germicidal lamp is extinguished,

wherein the cutoff switch is located within the body of the sanitizing apparatus such that the cutoff switch cannot be activated by a user when the removable cap is removed.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The sanitizing apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

a safety rod, slidably mounted within the body of the apparatus, the safety rod coupling the cutoff switch with at least one of the at least one extended member of the removable cap.

wherein the body contains an orifice for accepting the safety rod so as to prevent a user from inserting a finger into the orifice to activate the cutoff switch.